

CBS EVENING NEWS
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CP12 SALT II/USSR RATHER: The arms reduction talks are a successor SALT II, which, as David Martin reports now, may have been shot full of holes.

MARTIN: CBS News has learned that within the past 10 days the Soviet Union has launched another test shot of an inter-continental missile, which the U.S. suspects of being a violation of the SALT II arms control treaty. It was the third firing of the suspect missile which some officials believe carries up to twice the payload permitted under SALT. The U.S.

has refused to ratify the SALT treaty but has pledged, along with the Soviet Union, not to violate it. The U.S. monitors Soviet missile tests with an elaborate array of highly secret sensors--ground stations in Turkey and Western China, satellites with code names like *Chalet, a radar station in the Aleutian Islands, more radar aboard a ship in the Northern Pacific, and finally airplanes, which if they're lucky, can actually film the Soviet warheads as they re-enter the atmosphere. The Soviets first tested the missile in February, sending it from the launch pad at Plesetsk across Siberia to the Kamchatka Peninsula, but U.S. intelligence picked up only fragmentary data, partly because some of the monitoring systems were not on station and partly because the Soviets scrambled most of the radio signals which the missile sent back to Earth. A second test shot did not yield any data, since it fizzled shortly after it left the launch pad. Sources told CBS News the third shot last week was a success and that the intelligence data is being presented to a special panel headed by National Security Adviser William Clark. That panel will now decide whether there is enough evidence to accuse the Soviets of cheating on SALT. David Martin, CBS News, the Pentagon.